

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 9 as indicated below, wherein added material is underlined. In addition, please cancel claims 1-8 and 14-16 and add claims 17-53 and, as indicated below. A complete listing of claims pending in the application following entry of this Amendment are presented as follows:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) An article of footwear for receiving a foot of a wearer, said article of footwear comprising:

an upper for covering at least a portion of the wearer's foot;

a sole structure attached to said upper;

an air-filled bladder in fluid communication with ambient air and attached to said article of footwear, said bladder being located in said sole structure; and

a polytetrafluoroethylene filter in fluid communication with said bladder and ambient air, said filter being structured to permit ambient air to enter said bladder and restrict liquids and particulates from entering said bladder, said filter being located in said sole structure.

10. (Original) The article of footwear of claim 9, wherein said polytetrafluoroethylene is expanded polytetrafluoroethylene.

11. (Original) The article of footwear of claim 9, wherein said filter is hydrophobic and oleophobic.

12. (Original) The article of footwear of claim 9, wherein a perforated layer is located over said filter, said perforated layer permitting air to access said filter.

13. (Original) The article of footwear of claim 12, wherein said perforated layer prevents large particles and objects from contacting said filter.

14-16. (Cancelled)

17. (New) An article of footwear having an upper, a sole structure secured to the upper, and a fluid system incorporated into at least one of the upper and the sole structure, the fluid system comprising:

- a filter structured to permit ambient air to enter the fluid system and restrict liquids and particulates from entering the fluid system;
- a pump in fluid communication with the filter for pressurizing the air to a pressure above ambient pressure; and
- a pressure chamber in fluid communication with the pump for enclosing the air that is pressurized by the pump.

18. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 17, wherein the filter incorporates a polytetrafluoroethylene material.

19. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 18, wherein the polytetrafluoroethylene material is expanded polytetrafluoroethylene.

20. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 17, wherein the filter includes one of the group consisting of high density polyethylene, ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene, polyvinylidene fluoride, polypropylene, and ceramic filter materials.

21. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 17, wherein the filter is hydrophobic and oleophobic.

22. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 17, wherein a perforated layer having a plurality of perforations is located over the filter.

23. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 22, wherein the perforated layer prevents particles and objects having a size that is greater than the perforations from contacting the filter.

24. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 17, wherein the pressure chamber is located in one of the upper and the sole structure.

25. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 17, wherein the pressure chamber is located in the sole structure.

26. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 17, wherein the pump and the pressure chamber are located in the sole structure.

27. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 26, wherein the filter is positioned adjacent to the upper.

28. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 17, wherein the pump and the pressure chamber are at least partially encapsulated within a polymer foam material that forms a midsole portion of the sole structure.

29. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 17, wherein a first conduit extends between the filter and the pump, and a second conduit extends between the pump and the pressure chamber.

30. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 29, wherein a first valve is positioned in the first conduit, and a second valve is positioned in the second conduit.

31. (New) An article of footwear having an upper, a sole structure secured to the upper, and a fluid system incorporated into at least one of the upper and the sole structure, the fluid system comprising:

- a filter that forms an inlet to the fluid system and incorporates a polytetrafluoroethylene material;
- a pump in fluid communication with the filter for pressurizing the air to a pressure above ambient pressure; and

a pressure chamber in fluid communication with the pump for enclosing the air that is pressurized by the pump.

32. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 31, wherein the polytetrafluoroethylene material is expanded polytetrafluoroethylene.

33. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 31, wherein a perforated layer having a plurality of perforations is located over the filter.

34. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 31, wherein the pressure chamber is located in one of the upper and the sole structure.

35. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 31, wherein the pump and the pressure chamber are located in the sole structure.

36. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 35, wherein the filter is positioned adjacent to the upper.

37. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 31, wherein the pump and the pressure chamber are at least partially encapsulated within a polymer foam material that forms a midsole portion of the sole structure.

38. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 31, wherein a first conduit extends between the filter and the pump, a second conduit extends between the pump and the pressure chamber, a first valve is positioned in the first conduit, and a second valve is positioned in the second conduit.

39. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 38, wherein the first valve permits the air to flow from the filter to the pump and substantially prevents flow of the air from the pump to the filter, and the second valve permits the air to flow from the pump to the pressure chamber and substantially prevents flow of the air from the pressure chamber to the pump.

40. (New) An article of footwear having an upper, a sole structure secured to the upper, and a fluid system incorporated into at least one of the upper and the sole structure, the fluid system comprising:

- a filter structured to permit ambient air to enter the fluid system and restrict liquids and particulates from entering the fluid system;
- a pump in fluid communication with the filter, the pump being compressible to pressurize the air to a pressure above ambient pressure, and the pump being located within the sole structure;
- a pressure chamber in fluid communication with the pump for enclosing the air that is pressurized by the pump, the pressure chamber being located within the sole structure;
- a first valve located in a fluid path between the filter and the pump, the first valve permitting the air to flow from the filter to the pump and substantially preventing flow of the air from the pump to the filter; and
- a second valve located in a fluid path between the pump and the pressure chamber, the second valve permitting the air to flow from the pump to the pressure chamber and substantially preventing flow of the air from the pressure chamber to the pump.

41. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 40, wherein the filter incorporates a polytetrafluoroethylene material.

42. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 41, wherein the polytetrafluoroethylene material is expanded polytetrafluoroethylene.

43. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 40, wherein the filter includes one of the group consisting of high density polyethylene, ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene, polyvinylidene fluoride, polypropylene, and ceramic filter materials.

44. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 40, wherein the filter is positioned adjacent to the upper.

45. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 40, wherein the pump and the pressure chamber are at least partially encapsulated within a polymer foam material that forms a midsole portion of the sole structure.

46. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 40, wherein a first conduit extends between the filter and the pump, and a second conduit extends between the pump and the pressure chamber, the first valve being located in the first conduit, and the second valve being located in the second conduit.

47. (New) An article of footwear having an upper, a sole structure secured to the upper, and a fluid system incorporated into at least one of the upper and the sole structure, the fluid system comprising:

- a filter that forms an inlet to the fluid system and incorporates a polytetrafluoroethylene material;
- a pump in fluid communication with the filter for pressurizing the air to a pressure above ambient pressure, the pump being located within the sole structure;
- a pressure chamber in fluid communication with the pump for enclosing the air that is pressurized by the pump, the pressure chamber being located within the sole structure;
- a first valve located in a fluid path between the filter and the pump, the first valve permitting the air to flow from the filter to the pump and substantially preventing flow of the air from the pump to the filter; and
- a second valve located in a fluid path between the pump and the pressure chamber, the second valve permitting the air to flow from the pump to the pressure chamber and substantially preventing flow of the air from the pressure chamber to the pump.

48. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 47, wherein the polytetrafluoroethylene material is expanded polytetrafluoroethylene.

49. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 47, wherein the filter is positioned adjacent to the upper.

50. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 47, wherein the pump and the pressure chamber are at least partially encapsulated within a polymer foam material that forms a midsole portion of the sole structure.

51. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 47, wherein a first conduit extends between the filter and the pump, and a second conduit extends between the pump and the pressure chamber, the first valve being located in the first conduit, and the second valve being located in the second conduit.

52. (New) An article of footwear having an upper, a sole structure secured to the upper, and a fluid system incorporated into at least one of the upper and the sole structure, the fluid system comprising:

a filter that forms an inlet to the fluid system and incorporates a polytetrafluoroethylene material, the filter being positioned adjacent to the upper;

a pump in fluid communication with the filter, the pump being compressible to pressurize the air to a pressure above ambient pressure, and the pump being at least partially encapsulated within a polymer foam material that forms a midsole portion of the sole structure;

a first conduit extending between the filter and the pump to form a first fluid path between the filter and the pump;

a first valve located in the first fluid path, the first valve permitting the air to flow from the filter to the pump and substantially preventing flow of the air from the pump to the filter;

a pressure chamber in fluid communication with the pump for enclosing the air that is pressurized by the pump, the pressure chamber being at least partially encapsulated within the polymer foam material;

a second conduit extending between the pump and the pressure chamber to form a second fluid path between the pump and the pressure chamber;

a second valve located in the second fluid path, the second valve permitting the air to flow from the pump to the pressure chamber and substantially preventing flow of the air from the pressure chamber to the pump.

53. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 52, wherein the polytetrafluoroethylene material is expanded polytetrafluoroethylene.